

EAP 223 Academic Reading – Outside Reader: *Things Fall Apart*
PREREADING STUDY GUIDE – Chapters 20-25

Study Questions for Chapters 20-25 Use these questions to guide you through reading this section. Document your answers on this sheet to help you study for the quiz.

1. How did Okonkwo feel about his return to the clan?
He knew that he had lost a lot of ground, but he was determined to return with a flourish, and regain the lost time.
2. What message did Okonkwo give to his sons and daughters after Nwoye left the family?
He told his sons if they were going to be weak and follow Nwoye, they should do it while he was alive. If they turned against him after he died, he would return and break their necks. He asked his daughters to wait until they returned to Umuofia to marry.
3. Describe the changes that had come to Umuofia in the seven years that Okonkwo was in exile.
The Christian church had many converts. The white men had brought a government and built a court. The new prison was full of men who had broken the white men's laws.
4. Okonkwo asked Obierika why the people had lost their power to fight. What was Obierika's reply?
He said that too many of their people had joined with the white men in their religion and in upholding their laws. The white men managed to divide the clans and they were falling apart.
5. How did many of the other villagers feel about these changes?
They liked the trading store and the resultant money that was coming into Umuofia. They were also starting to think that the religion had some substance.
6. What was Mr. Brown's conclusion about the religion of the clan? How did he act to gain converts?
He decided a frontal attack would not work. Instead, he built a school and a hospital. When the people began seeing results from their schooling, and had illnesses healed, they began converting.
7. About what was Okonkwo grieving?
He mourned for the clan because it was falling apart. He also mourned for the men, because he thought they were getting soft, like women.
8. Describe the conflict started by Enoch.
Enoch publicly unmasked one of the *egwugwu*, thus killing an ancestral spirit. The rest of the masked *egwugwu* destroyed Enoch's compound, then headed for the church. They destroyed the church, but let Mr. Smith and the others live.
9. What was the result of the action taken by the *egwugwu*?
Okonkwo and five of the leaders were imprisoned by the District Commissioner.
The village of Umuofia was fined 200 bags of cowries.
10. How did Okonkwo feel when he returned from the white man's prison?
He was full of hate and bitterness, and wanted revenge.

11. Why did the men meet in the marketplace?
They met to discuss what their course of action should be.
12. What event happened in the marketplace?
Five court messengers came to stop the meeting. Okonkwo decapitated one of them.
13. What happened to Okonkwo?
He hanged himself.
14. What did Obierika tell the Commissioner?
Obierika said the Commissioner had driven Okonkwo to kill himself.
15. What was the commissioner's reaction to the incident?
He thought about how he could use the incident as material in his book.

Vocabulary for Chapters 20-25

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Context Clues.

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Use any clues you can find in the sentence, combined with your prior knowledge, to understand the italicized words.

1. He would return with a *flourish* and regain the seven wasted years.
2. But it was a *resilient* spirit, and in the end Okonkwo overcame his sorrow.
3. This growing feeling was due to Mr. Brown, the white missionary, who was very firm in restraining his flock from *provoking* the wrath of the clan.
4. Mr. Brown's mission grew from strength to strength, and because of its link with the new administration it earned a new social *prestige*.
5. & 6. He condemned openly Mr. Brown's policy of *compromise* and *accommodation*.
7. Enoch himself was greatly disappointed when he heard this, for he had hoped that a holy war was *imminent*.
8. *Discordant* bells clanged, machetes clashed and the air was full of dust and weird sounds.
9. For a brief moment the onrush of the *egwugwu* was checked by the unexpected *composure* of the two men.
10. Then an unmistakable voice rose above the *tumult* and there was immediate silence.
11. His voice was unmistakable and so he was able to bring immediate peace to the *agitated* spirits.
12. It has bred untold *abominations* and we have come to put an end to it.

Part II: Determining the Meaning: Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

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| _G_ 1. flourish | A. stirred up; disturbed |
| _J_ 2. resilient | B. mental calmness |
| _D_ 3. provoking | C. help; adaptation |
| _L_ 4. prestige | D. angering; causing retaliation |
| _H_ 5. compromise | E. something detestable |
| _C_ 6. accommodation | F. impending; near at hand |
| _F_ 7. imminent | G. grow well; prosper |
| _K_ 8. discordant | H. adjustment |
| _B_ 9. composure | I. commotion; riot |
| _I_ 10. tumult | J. elastic; able to spring back |
| _A_ 11. agitated | K. inharmonious; conflicting |
| _E_ 12. abominations | L. impression produced by achievement |